

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for Claim 1; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,100,784 to Takemoto et al. (hereinafter “the ’784 patent”); Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,627,015 to Takemoto et al. (hereinafter “the ’015 patent”); and Claim 1 was rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 4 of the ’015 patent.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method of adhering a first member to a second member via an intermediate member, the method comprising: (1) positioning the first member and the second member relative to each other; (2) applying a first adhesive to a first surface destined to comprise a first interface between the first member and the intermediate member; (3) applying a second adhesive to a second surface destined to comprise a second interface between the second member and the intermediate member; (4) contacting the first member to the intermediate member via the first adhesive to form the first interface; (5) contacting the second member to the intermediate member via the second adhesive to form the second interface; and (6) curing the first adhesive and said second adhesive using UV light such that the intermediate member can move due to shrinkage of at least one of the first adhesive and the second adhesive, wherein the curing step includes filtering the light such that a color of the intermediate member is maintained. Further, Claim 1 recites that after

curing, the first member and the second member are fixed to the intermediate member and therefore fixed to each other. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to no longer recite that the intermediate member, but not the first and second members, can move due to shrinkage of at least one of the first adhesive and the second adhesive. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.²

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by both the '784 and '015 patents, Applicants note that those references include a common specification. In particular, the '015 and '784 patents are directed to a construction method for mounting an ink-jet head assembly to an ink-jet printer, wherein intermediate members are positioned between each head and a head holder, and the intermediate members are fixed to the head by an adhesive and fixed to the head holder by an adhesive. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '015 and '784 patents fail to disclose the steps of curing the first adhesive and the second adhesive using UV light such that the intermediate member can move due to shrinkage of at least one of the first adhesive and the second adhesive, wherein the curing step includes filtering the light such that a color of the intermediate member is maintained, as recited in amended Claim 1. The '015 patent does not teach or suggest the use of a filter to maintain the color of the intermediate member, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by the '015 and '784 patents is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

¹ See, e.g., p.57 of the specification.

² See, e.g., Figures 31A-32B, which illustrate shrinkage of at least one of the first adhesive and the second adhesive during curing, and that the intermediate member can move due to the shrinkage.

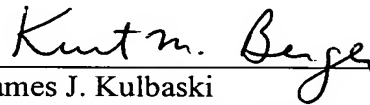
Applicants respectfully submit that the double-patenting rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. As discussed above, the '015 patent fails to disclose the filtering step recited in amended Claim 1. Further, Claim 1 of the '015 patent fails to recite a filtering step.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 patentably defines over the '784 and '015 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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